

REMARKS

Applicant has reviewed and considered the Office Action mailed on December 23, 2003, and the references cited therewith.

Claim 13 is amended. Claims 35-41 are added. Claims 13-41 are pending in this application.

Affirmation of Election

Applicant notes that Species III (Figure 7) was elected in response to the restriction requirement mailed August 7, 2003. However, Applicant believes the methods recited in the pending claims are supported throughout the specification, not merely in reference to Figure 7, and that withdrawn claims 18-34 also read on the species of Figure 7. Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner remove the withdrawal of claims 18-34. Applicant again asserts that at least claims 13, 18, 25, and 30 are generic to each species noted in the restriction requirement.

Objections to the Specification

The abstract was objected to due to various informalities. It is believed that the amendment made herein to the abstract obviates the objection. Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the objection to the specification.

The title was objected to because it was not descriptive. It is believed that the amendment made herein to the title obviates the objection. Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the objection to the specification.

§102 Rejection of the Claims

Claims 13-17 were rejected under 35 USC § 102(b) as being anticipated by Banerjee et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,557,502).

Applicant has amended claim 13 to better describe the subject matter recited in the claim. The support for the amendment is found, among other places, in Figure 7 and the accompanying discussion on page 7 of the specification. Applicant believes claim 13 is not anticipated by the

cited reference since the reference does not include each limitation recited in the claim. For instance, forming at least a portion of the internal ground layer “along at least a portion of the chip carrier outer edge,” and “applying an electrically conductive layer to at least a portion of the chip carrier outer edge,” the conductive layer being applied over an exposed portion of the ground layer and in electrical contact with said ground layer, as recited in claim 13.

Claims 14-17 include each limitation of claim 13 and are therefore also not anticipated by the cited reference. Reconsideration and allowance is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

Applicant respectfully submits that the claims are in condition for allowance and notification to that effect is earnestly requested. The Examiner is invited to telephone Applicant's attorney at (612) 359-3267 to facilitate prosecution of this application.

If necessary, please charge any additional fees or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 19-0743

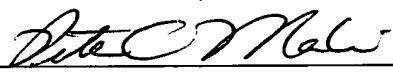
Respectfully submitted,

NICK A. YOUKER ET AL.

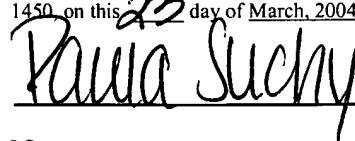
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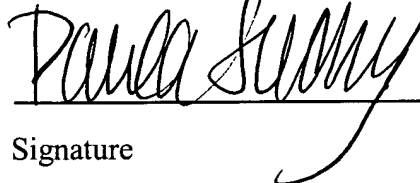
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Date 3/23/04

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CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 CFR 1.8: The undersigned hereby certifies that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail, in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner of Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on this 23 day of March, 2004.


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